Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

/095 W

----- 027843

R 030949Z APR 76 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5676 INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY AMCONSUL CALCUTTA AMCONSUL MADRAS

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, EINV, IN

SUBJ: CALTEX NEGOTIATIONS

REF: NEW DELHI 5932

1. CALTEX REPRESENTATIVES BRIEFED ECON COUNSELOR APRIL 30 ON INITIAL DAY OF NEGOTIATIONS. GOI HAS REVIEWED COMPENSATION ARRANGEMENTS NEGOTIATED EARLIER WITH EXXON AND BURMAH-SHELL AND HAD CONCLUDED THAT AMOUNT DUE TO CALTEX UNDER SIMILAR TYPE OF ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE SOMEWHERE BETWEEN \$7-\$15 MILLION DOLLARS (CALTEX HAD EARLIER DONE SAME MATHEMATICAL EXERCISE AND COME UP WITH \$15 MILLION FIGURE). WHILE GOI WAS PREPARED TO GO OVER MATHEMATICS ON THIS ISSUE AND LARGE NUMBER OF SMALL TECHNICAL MATTERS WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED, IT WAS NOT PREPARED TO CONSIDER ANY CHANGE IN FUNDAMENTAL FRAMEWORK ESTABLISHED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EARLIER TWO TAKEOVERS.

2. CALTEX HAS REPLIED THAT GOI APPROACH WAS UNACCEPTABLE. DELEGATION HAD COME TO INDIA FOR "COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS" AND THERE WERE NUMBER OF OTHER MORE

REASONABLE BASES FOR EVALUATION OF CALTEX PROPERTIES. CALTEX ESTIMATED ITS VALUE AT \$30-45 MILLION AND CONCLUDED IT WASSWILLING TO "CONSIDER" AN OFFER AT THE LOWER END OF THIS SCALE.

3. CALTEX IS CONCERNED THAT THERE IS UNLIKELY TO BE ANY SUBSTANTIAL GIVE IN THE GOI POSITION. IN VIEW OF CALTEX' WORLD-WIDE INTERESTS, IT IS NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT A FORMULA WHICH COULD HAVE SERIOUS ADVERSE EFFECTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. DISCUSSIONS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO MAY 3 IN ORDER TO PERMIT PARTICIPATION OF PETROLEUM SECRETARY VOHRA WHO HAS BEEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY. HOWEVER, LIKELY SCENARIO IS NO SIPLICANT PROGRESS AND ADJOURNMENT OF TALKSBCCVAPJDER#TO PERMIT BOTH SIDES TO CONSIDER THEIR POSITIONS. DETA LED CALTEX LETTER ON VALUATION BASES HAS BEEN POUCHED TO

4. COMMENT: WE DOUBT THAT THERE IS MUCH GIVE IN THE GOI POSITION THOUGH IT MAY NOT BE IN ANY GREAT HURRY TOCOMPLETE CALTEX NEGOTIATIONS. WE ARE URGING CALTEX TO PRESENT ITS POSITION ON ALTERNATIVE VALUATION BASES TO SENIOR GOI OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO AVOID IMPRESSION THAT CALTEX IS UNWILLING TO NEGOTIATE.

SAXBE

NOTE BY OCT: #TEXT AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

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Subject: CALTEX NEGOTIATIONS TAGS: ENRG, EINV, IN, US, CALTEX To: STATE

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